

Silk to Be Big U. S. Industry

New Silkworm and Mulberry Tree Promise Cheaper and Better Product.

CARACAS, VENEZUELA.—Twenty-five years ago poly-poly Vartan K. Osgian reached New York from Harpoot, Armenia, with his pockets full of silkworms and the knowledge his family had acquired in 700 years of silk cultivation.

Today Dr. Osgian, an American citizen, has created a race of super-silkworms he hopes will be the basis for a great industry in the United States. It has worms can do what he says they can, silk will be as cheap as cotton.

Dr. Osgian has satisfied members of the Venezuelan ministry of agriculture that his worms are three times as large as their Japanese relatives, that they make cocoons six times as heavy and spin 18 different shades. A U. S. department of agriculture ministry official says this is one of the most important developments in the history of silk culture.

Dr. Osgian has done Frankenstein-like things to his Japanese cocoons, combining in them the best qualities of the Japanese, Chinese, French, Italian, Brazilian, Armenian and Spanish insects.

But where he really shines is as a dietitian. Silkworms are voracious gluttons. They do nothing but eat from hatching time to the moment they begin weaving their heads in figures of eight for three days to spin their cocoons. Their size depends upon how much mulberry leaf they can stuff.

Dr. Osgian experimented until he created a tree with bigger, tenderer leaves, and just enough sap. Between the start of his experiments in August, 1918, 20 years ago, and the creation of seven plantations with 2,500,000 trees in Venezuela, was a series of heartbreaking failures. The final product is the "Morera Osgian" with leaves 15 to 21 inches long, six times that of its nearest competitor. It will feed worms six months after it has been planted, instead of having to wait for years.

Has Unraveling Machine. Seeking cheap labor and financial aid when his experiments were going poorly, Dr. Osgian accepted an invitation of the Panamerican government to carry on there some 16 years ago. The plantations were about to go into large scale production when a new government began to make a political football of the industry. So Dr. Osgian accepted the invitation of Dictator Juan Vicente Gomez to continue his work in this country. Now, Dr. Osgian has not only straightened out the kinks in his worm-culture plan, but invented a cocoon-unraveling machine which he hopes will knock the Japanese natural silk industry into a cocked cocoon.

Although the Venezuelan president, the minister of agriculture and many other public figures have helped Dr. Osgian's project here, he intends to concentrate his efforts in the United States.

At present he can produce 1,700 pounds of silk a month at his Venezuelan farms, enough for 27,000 pairs of stockings, or 160 parachutes. In the United States he says he would produce five million pounds the first year and 10 million pounds the year after, given government assistance.

What's in a Name, Just Embarrassment, That's All. PHILADELPHIA.—George, John and Matthew Ashkanazy were granted permission by Judge Frank Smith of Common Pleas court to change their name to "Ashes." The brothers told the court they were constantly embarrassed because of the pronunciation of the last two syllables of their surname.

New Washing Machines Won't Be Manufactured. WASHINGTON.—Better put it up your old washing machine and plan to make it last a while—or buy a second hand one if you have one. The War Production board made it clear that though there will be plenty of repair parts manufactured, the freeze on the production of new machines is still on and probably will be kept on next year.

Bible Passage Aids Unit Lost in Jungle. SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA.—The corporal of an Australian unit lost in the jungle related: "I was idly turning over a message in Acts (16:13) saying: 'And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side.' It was Sunday. The lost unit accepted the advice as a guide to safety."

"GAY GADGETS"

By NANCY PEPPER
Trixie Teen Says—

Don't wait until the last minute to get ready for a date. No boy likes to make conversation with the family while you're deciding what dress to wear.

And, to that matter, the family doesn't enjoy it much, either. Instead of getting your hair just so, you have to be satisfied with a few fast dabs with brush and comb. You're in such a hurry that you don't have time to put on your lipstick and you look like a fighter from a circus. You don't notice, until it's too late, that your slip is dripping down your back, and you haven't time to see on that loose button. Instead of sailing down stairs gracefully, looking like a Cover Girl, you come tumbling down with a red face, a crumpled dress and a general feeling of not being put together. It was the early bird that got the worm—and it's the early girl that gets the boy.

Will You Join the Dance?

Gone are the days when your swain would bow politely in front of you and beseech you for the pleasure of the next go-around. Now he asks you to dance something like this:

"Like chicken? Grab a wing." "Gee, you're full of kidding." "Come on, Chicken, start mugging." "Hi, long, let's cut a rug." "Get her, you cat."

Rooms for Improvement

Every girl wants a pretty room of her own. While you might not be able to afford one that looks like a set in an M. G. M. movie, you can certainly improve the one you have. Some tricky teens thought up these ideas and they're keen.

Low Bridge

Did you hear about the little Moron who put his father into the refrigerator because he wanted some M. movie, you can certainly improve the one you have. Some tricky teens thought up these ideas and they're keen.

The Worm Turns

I like chocolate soda. And popcorn that is salted. I like extra ice cream. With my double melted. I like juicy hot dogs. And I like to eat cold ones. I like you 'til you start. Those corny Moron jokes.

More on Morons

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Beef-Bone Flour Found

To Halt Decay in Teeth. CHICAGO.—Discovery of a substance that makes human beings immune to dental decay was reported in the Journal of the American Dental Association by Dr. S. G. Harrold of Worcester, Mass. He said a "sterling" decrease was noted in caries (dental decay) in patients at the Worcester State hospital who were fed flour made from the bones of beef animals, which contain great quantities of calcium, phosphorus and fluorine. The experiment lasted nine months.

Use of the Bone Flour, Dr. Harrold said, resulted from an investigation made in Dr. Smith's clinic, Texas, where the population was found to have a low incidence of caries.

It was found that long-time residents of this district were free from both carious cavities and fillings in the teeth.

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